

## Understanding 2005 Findings

The "2005 Findings" sections report the overall percentage of Ohio high school students engaging in a particular behavior. Information is reported by categories (total, gender, race and grade level) for each question. The 2005 findings are compared with 2003 and 1999 survey results where applicable.

A graphical representation of the data (bar graph) is provided for each question. Survey findings are also presented in words, using a bullet point format.

Data supplied from the YRBS provide Ohio with a means to compare the health of our youth with the rest of the nation. The national movement to improve the health of adolescents is based upon 21 critical objectives that focus on youth ages 10 – 24 years. These objectives have been selected from the more than 460 national objectives listed in Healthy People 2010 as critical health outcomes or contributing risk behaviors that can impact healthy youth development. The 21 critical objectives are listed as Healthy People Goals in the introduction to each survey topic area.

The answers reported on the YRBS are considered accurate and reliable because research protocols and scientific guidelines were followed. Survey findings could be identified as accurate, correct or "valid at the 95th percentile confidence level" because the percentage of participating students was sufficiently high. That is, if the survey were to be repeated 100 times, 95 times out of 100, similar results would be found. For each of the behavior-related questions (Q8-Q99), ranges for possible margins of error (confidence intervals) were calculated. For example, when comparing groups (e.g., males and females), if the confidence intervals for the groups do not overlap, then the results or the percentage differences are considered "significant." This means there is a statistical difference between the two groups being compared 95 percent of the time. If the word "significant" is not used in comparing the results of two groups, the difference between the percentages of the two groups may be due to chance rather than to a true difference.

For the purposes of this report, "estimate may not be reliable" refers to high sampling variability, where the ratio of the standard error to the estimate is greater than 30 percent. This is generally due to a small number of respondents. When this occurs, statistically meaningful comparisons cannot be made.

Students were grouped into three racial categories: White, Black and Other. Students classified as Other were those who designated themselves: Multi-racial; American Indian or Alaska Native; Asian; Hispanic or Latino; and Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander. Assigning students to the Other race category in this manner helped increase the number of respondents in this category, allowing for comparisons between racial categories.

Percentages are reported in this survey for behavior-related questions 8 to 99 (i.e., Q8 to Q99) and are rounded according to CDC guidelines. Odd half numbers (e.g., 7.5 percent or 75.5 percent) were rounded up (e.g., to 8 percent or 76 percent), and even half numbers (e.g., 8.5 percent or 22.5 percent) were rounded down (e.g., to 8 percent or 22 percent).

For the 2005 YRBS, CDC conducted additional analysis of the data. Five findings were computed by analyzing two or three related questions to enhance the understanding of the issue. These are presented in a summary format and are not associated with a particular question.

[introduction continued . . . >>](#)